



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

May 11, 2022

MEDICAL ADVISORY: OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTICS AVAILABLE FOR COVID-19

- **RECOMMENDED: ANTIVIRAL AND MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY THERAPEUTICS FOR OUTPATIENT TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH MILD-TO-MODERATE COVID-19 DISEASE WHO ARE AT HIGH RISK FOR SEVERE COMPLICATIONS.**
- **RECOMMENDED: EVUSHELD, A MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY COMBINATION, FOR PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS TO PREVENT COVID-19 IN MODERATELY TO SEVERELY IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH SEVERE ADVERSE REACTIONS TO PRIOR VACCINATION.**
- **CONTRAINDICATED: SYSTEMIC CORTICOSTEROIDS AND ANTIBIOTICS FOR OUTPATIENT TREATMENT OF COVID-19 IN PERSONS WITH NO SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN REQUIREMENT OR BACTERIAL COINFECTION.**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

As of May 4, 2022, the Hawai'i State Department of Health (HDOH) has reported a total of 245,654 persons with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease, and 1,428 COVID-19-related deaths. Updates are provided to healthcare providers and the public about the availability and use of recommended therapies for COVID-19 and to advise against using unproven treatments that have known or potential harms for people. For persons with mild to moderate COVID-19, who are not hospitalized and who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 outcomes, several treatment options are now widely available.

To access outpatient therapeutics for COVID-19, use the [COVID-19 Test to Treat Locator](#) tool to find facilities that offer testing, appointments, and treatment administration and pharmacies to fill a prescription. The Test to Treat call center at 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) provides information in more than 150 languages; the Disability Information and Access Line is available at 1-888-677-1199.

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) [COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#) provide updated information on the appropriate use of clinically indicated therapeutics. For maximal effectiveness, treatment with oral antivirals (i.e., ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir and molnupiravir) must begin within 5 days of symptom onset and parenteral therapeutics (i.e., remdesivir and bebtelovimab) must begin within 7 days of symptom onset. For persons with mild to moderate COVID-19, who are not hospitalized and who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 outcomes, prescribe **one** of the following therapeutics:

Preferred Therapies (listed in order of preference)

- a. Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid)
- b. Remdesivir

Alternative Therapies (listed alphabetically)

For use only when neither of the preferred therapies is available, feasible to use, or clinically appropriate.

- a. Bebtelovimab
- b. Molnupiravir

There are considerable differences in effectiveness, risk profiles, and use restrictions between the two preferred antivirals. The [NIH's COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#) have important therapeutic considerations, such as the potential for significant drug-drug interactions with ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid) and dosing regimens for patients with renal impairment.

Do **not** use dexamethasone and other systemic corticosteroids to treat patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who do not require hospitalization or supplemental oxygen; these drugs have no proven benefit in these patients and can cause harm.

Do **not** use antibacterial therapy to treat COVID-19 in the absence of another indication; these drugs have no benefit for treating viral infections and can cause harm.

Encourage all persons to remain up to date with COVID-19 vaccination. Persons who are immunocompromised or severely allergic to COVID-19 vaccines may receive tixagevimab co-packaged with cilgavimab (Evusheld), a long-acting combination monoclonal antibody therapy given by intramuscular injection for pre-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19. To find Evusheld distribution locations, use the [COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#) or call the support line at 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489).

Additional resources are available on the HDOH COVID-19 website under the For Clinicians tab, [Therapeutics for the Outpatient Treatment of COVID-19](#), including links to a [Side-by-Side Comparison Table for all Outpatient COVID-19 Therapeutics](#) and the [COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#).

We appreciate your assistance in treating Hawaii's residents and visitors with mild to moderate COVID-19, who are not hospitalized and who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 outcomes, to prevent morbidity, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Kemble, MD
State Epidemiologist